

PATENT APPLICATION
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ALC-135784

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. An access control method for verifying a user's
2 access to a network, comprising the steps:

3 upon receiving an indication signifying that
4 said user is attempting to access said network using a
5 multimedia appliance, invoking a multimedia session
6 engine to launch a network access application;

7 interrogating said user by an access
8 application server associated with said network;

9 receiving a multimedia response from said user
10 responsive to said interrogating step;

11 determining if said multimedia response is
12 valid; and

13 if so, granting permission to said user with
14 respect to accessing said network.

1 2. The access control method for verifying a
2 user's access to a network as set forth in claim 1,
3 wherein said user is remotely located with respect to
4 said network.

1 3. The access control method for verifying a
2 user's access to a network as set forth in claim 2,
3 wherein said multimedia response from said user comprises
4 an audio response responsive to said interrogating step.

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1 4. The access control method for verifying a
2 user's access to a network as set forth in claim 2,
3 wherein said multimedia response comprises a video input
4 of said user in response to said interrogating step.

1 5. The access control method for verifying a
2 user's access to a network as set forth in claim 4,
3 wherein said video input comprises a live picture of said
4 user.

1 6. The access control method for verifying a
2 user's access to a network as set forth in claim 2,
3 further comprising the steps:

4 upon granting permission to said user with
5 respect to accessing said network, re-interrogating said
6 user after a time period;

7 receiving a response from said user responsive
8 to said re-interrogating step; and

9 if said response from said user not valid,
10 terminating said user's access to said network.

1 7. The access control method for verifying a
2 user's access to a network as set forth in claim 6,
3 wherein said response from said user comprises at least
4 one of an audio response, a video input, a device input
5 effectuated via said multimedia appliance, and a
6 biometric ID input of said user.

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1 8. The access control method for verifying a
2 user's access to a network as set forth in claim 7,
3 wherein said network comprises a corporate computer
4 network, and further wherein said re-interrogating step
5 is effectuated by a human operator associated with said
6 corporate computer network.

1 9. The access control method for verifying a
2 user's access to a network as set forth in claim 7,
3 wherein said network comprises a corporate computer
4 network, and further wherein said re-interrogating step
5 is effectuated by an automated access control apparatus
6 associated with said corporate computer network.

1 10. The access control method for verifying a
2 user's access to a network as set forth in claim 7,
3 wherein said network comprises a home network, and
4 further wherein said re-interrogating step is effectuated
5 by an access control application server associated with
6 a public network that serves said user.

1 11. An access control system for use with a
2 multimedia-capable next-generation network, said system
3 for providing remote access to a network portion,
4 comprising:

5 means for receiving an indication signifying
6 that a remotely located user is attempting to access
7 said network portion using a multimedia appliance;

8 a multimedia session engine operable to invoke
9 a network access application, responsive to said
10 indication, on an access application server associated
11 with said multimedia-capable next-generation network;

12 means for interrogating said remotely located
13 user for a multimedia response, said means for
14 interrogating operating responsive to control inputs
15 provided by said multimedia session engine;

16 logic means, associated with said access
17 application server, for determining if said multimedia
18 response from said user is valid; and

19 means for granting permission to said user with
20 respect to accessing said network portion, provided said
21 multimedia response has been determined to be valid.

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1 12. The access control system for use with a
2 multimedia-capable next-generation network as set forth
3 in claim 11, wherein said network portion comprises a
4 network selected from the group consisting of a corporate
5 network, a home network, a small business network, and a
6 private enterprise network.

1 13. The access control system for use with a
2 multimedia-capable next-generation network as set forth
3 in claim 12, wherein said multimedia response comprises
4 at least one of an audio response, a video input, a
5 device input effectuated via said multimedia appliance,
6 and a biometric ID input of said user.

1 14. The access control system for use with a
2 multimedia-capable next-generation network as set forth
3 in claim 13, further including means for re-interrogating
4 said remotely located user after a select time period
5 upon granting permission to access said network portion.

1 15. The access control system for use with a
2 multimedia-capable next-generation network as set forth
3 in claim 13, wherein said means for interrogating said
4 remotely located user includes means for effectuating
5 different levels of interrogation depending upon a
6 plurality of access levels allowed with respect to said
7 network portion.

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1 16. A computer-accessible medium operable with a
2 network element disposed in a multimedia-capable next-
3 generation network, said computer-accessible medium
4 carrying a sequence of instructions which, when executed
5 by at least one processing entity associated with said
6 multimedia-capable next-generation network, cause said
7 network element to perform the following steps:

8 upon receiving an indication signifying that a
9 user is attempting to access a network portion using a
10 multimedia appliance, invoking a multimedia session
11 engine to launch a network access application;

12 directing an access application server
13 associated with said multimedia-capable next-generation
14 network to interrogate said user;

15 receiving a multimedia response from said user
16 responsive to said interrogating step;

17 determining, in said access application server,
18 if said multimedia response is valid; and

19 if so, granting permission to said user with
20 respect to accessing said network portion.

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1 17. The computer-accessible medium operable with a
2 network element disposed in a multimedia-capable next-
3 generation network as set forth in claim 16, wherein said
4 network portion comprises a network selected from the
5 group consisting of a corporate network, a home network,
6 a small business network, and a private enterprise
7 network.

1 18. The computer-accessible medium operable with a
2 network element disposed in a multimedia-capable next-
3 generation network as set forth in claim 17, wherein said
4 user is remotely located with respect to said network
5 portion.

1 19. The computer-accessible medium operable with a
2 network element disposed in a multimedia-capable next-
3 generation network as set forth in claim 18, wherein said
4 multimedia response comprises at least one of an audio
5 response, a video input, a device input effectuated via
6 said multimedia appliance, and a biometric ID input of
7 said user.

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1 20. The computer-accessible medium operable with a
2 network element disposed in a multimedia-capable next-
3 generation network as set forth in claim 19, wherein said
4 sequence of instructions further includes instructions to
5 carry out the following steps:

6 upon granting permission to said user with
7 respect to accessing said network portion, re-
8 interrogating said user after a time period;

9 receiving a response from said user responsive
10 to said re-interrogating step; and

11 if said response from said user not valid,
12 terminating said user's access to said network portion.

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1 21. A user verification method for use in a service
2 network for positively identifying a user attempting to
3 gain access to a controlled facility, comprising the
4 steps of:

5 upon receiving an indication that said user is
6 attempting to access said controlled facility, invoking
7 a multimedia session engine to launch an access service
8 application;

9 interrogating said user by an access
10 application server associated with said service network;

11 receiving a multimedia response from said user
12 responsive to said interrogating step;

13 determining if said multimedia response is
14 valid; and

15 if so, granting permission to said user with
16 respect to accessing said controlled facility in
17 accordance with a user access profile stored on said
18 service network.

1 22. The user verification method for use in a
2 service network for positively identifying a user
3 attempting to gain access to a controlled facility as set
4 forth in claim 21, wherein said multimedia response from
5 said user comprises at least one of an audio response,
6 video response, and a text response, and further wherein
7 said controlled facility is selected from the group
8 consisting of a corporate network, a home network, a
9 physical area, and an access-controlled service.

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1 23. The user verification method for use in a
2 service network for positively identifying a user
3 attempting to gain access to a controlled facility as set
4 forth in claim 22, further comprising the steps:

5 upon granting permission to said user with
6 respect to accessing said controlled facility, re-
7 interrogating said user after at least one of a
8 predetermined time period and a predetermined user
9 action;

10 receiving a response from said user responsive
11 to said re-interrogating step; and

12 if said response from said user not valid,
13 terminating said user's access to said controlled
14 facility.

1 24. The user verification method for use in a
2 service network for positively identifying a user
3 attempting to gain access to a controlled facility as set
4 forth in claim 22, wherein said audio response comprises
5 playing back on a multimedia appliance a stored audio
6 file associated with said user.

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1 25. The user verification method for use in a
2 service network for positively identifying a user
3 attempting to gain access to a controlled facility as set
4 forth in claim 22, wherein said audio response comprises
5 generating a live audio file associated with said user on
6 a multimedia appliance.

1 26. The user verification method for use in a
2 service network for positively identifying a user
3 attempting to gain access to a controlled facility as set
4 forth in claim 22, wherein said video response comprises
5 playing back on a multimedia appliance a stored video
6 file associated with said user.

1 27. The user verification method for use in a
2 service network for positively identifying a user
3 attempting to gain access to a controlled facility as set
4 forth in claim 22, wherein said video response comprises
5 generating a live video file associated with said user on
6 a multimedia appliance.

1 28. The user verification method for use in a
2 service network for positively identifying a user
3 attempting to gain access to a controlled facility as set
4 forth in claim 22, wherein said multimedia response
5 further includes providing a still photograph of said
6 user.